



Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

December 2nd, 2013, 9:00am – 11:00am

Multnomah Building, 5th Floor Copper Room, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

Task Force meeting attended by: Commissioner McKeel, Sean Files, Steven Easterday, Andy Smith, Chris Aiosa, Blake Love, Mike Caudle, Tressa Kovachevich, Nathaniel Boehme, Deanna Dalton, Lynn Schemmer-Valleau, Jonathan Sanford, Estanislado Quinones, John Concepcion, Pete Pringle, Doug Kuhl, Glenn Shuck

TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES	Action
Assc of Oregon Counties (AOC) Veterans Services Committee Comm. McKeel, Sean Files	<p>Commissioner McKeel provided a brief overview, referring to the attached handout. Committee is comprised of County Commissioners and Judges from across the state and is a forum for best practices, innovative programs, and bringing information to and from the local or national level to counties.</p> <p>Through the committee discussions, it is clear that communities across the state are experiencing similar issues with regards to veterans (especially effective outreach, connecting veterans with health care and other benefits, and jobs). There was a lot of positive energy at the last committee meeting, which was attended by about 20 Commissioners. Group discussed the workplan on the handout, and feedback included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add section on employment• Include information on dental insurance for health care, especially low-income to no-income veterans and available preventive dental resources.• Include the need for flexible funds to support VASH recipients since the SSVF is available for move-in costs.	<p>County task force will have regular updates on this committee's work.</p>

<p>Multnomah County Task Force: Year in Review</p> <p>Comm. McKeel, Sean Files</p>	<p>Discussion about the successes of this past year and next steps for 2014. Comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valuable to hear about legislation at the state level. • Good venue to network and problem solve for upcoming events (such as stand downs). • Community Covenant was a big success for this community. • Valuable to hear from CVSOs, and to get feedback at the October meeting about their outreach efforts. • Implementation and awareness of policies, such as HB 3207 for veterans applying for a public sector job. • Nice that the people who are “doing the work” can all have a seat and speak at this table. • Building awareness about the work that CVSOs and other local agencies are doing, and how they can fit in to support each other. • Ability of different agencies to come to the table, learn where the gaps are, and what needs to happen for someone to pick it up. <p>Goals for next year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to get the VA more engaged in the task force. • Reach out to DHS, schools, religious community, and the Coalition of Communities of Color. • Explore the structure and work plans of King County’s Veterans Coordinating Council and others, to consider things to implement here that will enhance veterans services in Multnomah County. • Look into possibility of partnering with courts and veterans docket partners to have veterans who need to do community service connect with organizations benefiting veterans. 	
<p>Implement-ation of Community Covenant</p> <p>Comm. McKeel, Sean Files</p>	<p>Brief overview of the Multnomah County Veterans Community Covenant and the VTF’s role to help implement, review, and revise this work plan for services. Handout attached.</p> <p>The Covenant, available here: https://web.multco.us/ds4/veterans-community-covenant, identifies ten different issues facing veterans and their families. The Task Force will review one of these issues every month as a standing agenda item, with presentations and updates to follow. Attendees discussed the different issues and drafted a schedule based on events and issues that happen during the year (such as education in August before the fall semester begins and housing in November prior to the winter shelter openings and point-in-time count.)</p> <p><u>Schedule is as follows:</u></p> <p>January: Health Care February: Mental Health, state legislation March: Women’s Services, federal legislation April: Families May: Suicide Prevention June: Criminal Justice July: TBD August: Education September: Employment October: Accessing Benefits November: Housing December: Year review</p>	

<p>General Updates All</p>	<p>Veteran's Docket – Commissioner McKeel The Veteran's Docket project that the task force has been updated on the past few years may be moving forward early next year. Called the "Multnomah County Veterans Outreach Project and Probation Violation Docket", this is a partnership between the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office, MC Circuit Court, VA Veterans' Justice Outreach staff, MC Dept. of Community Justice, and public defender's office. Goals will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To create a coordinated approach within the local criminal justice system for identifying military veterans, recognizing and assessing their unique needs, and systematically referring them to specialized services currently available in the community. 2. To reduce future criminal behavior by better addressing the criminal risk factors and sources of instability for military veterans involved in the criminal justice system. 3. To provide better care for military veterans living in our community. <p>There is briefing to the County Board of Commissioners tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 12/19 at 9:30am. Official agenda will be released 12/13 at multco.us</p>	
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Next meeting scheduled for ...

January 6th, 2014

9:00am - 11:00am

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd – Copper Conference Room on 5th Floor Portland, OR 97214

** Meetings normally take place 1st Monday of every month 9:00am - 11:00am **